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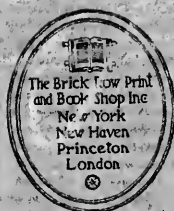




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A Catalogue of
**ROBERT LOUIS
STEVENSON**
**AUTOGRAPH
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Foreword

THE BRICK ROW BOOK SHOP,
Inc. presents herewith a group of Robert Louis Stevenson items which it believes to be unequalled. Childhood letters, boyhood letters, boarding school letters, travel letters, engineering letters, literary and journal letters make up a rich and varied series representing the chief events of his life.

Practically all of this material is in Stevenson's own hand and is unpublished.

In addition to the letters there are several interesting and important M. S. drafts of his verse and prose, including portions of some of his better known works and several yet unpublished.

Taken as a whole, this choice collection of R. L. S. material is felt to be a real boon to those who value some association with the best loved figure in modern literature.

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Robert Louis Stevenson

1. [Aug., 1856.]—3 small pp., signed (after one false start), in childish print, Robert-Lewis. B. S. Stevenson. Unpublished.

Dictated to his nurse, as he was not six years old at this time. The earliest real letter included in Mrs. Isobel Strong's sale of Stevenson's effects, and seven years earlier than the first published by Colvin—

"I am wearying for an answer to my last letter. . . . I am making myself very happy tonight. I am wondering how englishmen can attend to their work & beat on drums because there is a picture in Punch & it is a man beating a great many drums on an engine."

The charm of the phrasing is unmistakable, and the little note is certainly evidence that his famous mature "style" was not wholly the result of copying models. . . . 200.00

A Group of three holograph boyhood letters to his mother, written from the boarding school at Spring Grove, near London, which Stevenson attended for a few months during the fall of 1863, at the age of 13.

2. [Nov. or Dec., 1863.]—3 pp., signed R. Stevenson. Unpublished.

"I hope that the sitting room has got a good view of 'La Méditerranée. I was at the Hilbury's to tea yesterday we had parLOUR croquet and Mrs. Hilbury called me the turk because I used to croquet everyone. . . . My dear mama I am to send 7 loves from 7 different people." . . . 200.00

3. Sunday [Dec., 1863.]—3 pp., signed R. Stevenson. Unpublished.

"Do tell me in your next letter about some excursion. . . . I long to see dear old Mentoni again with the olives and the oranges. Is the prince's palace not bought yet? Do the frogs make as much noise as last year? We are to begin examination on Monday: Have you been on any donkey excursions?" . . . 250.00

4. Sunday [Dec., 1863.]—3 pp., signed R. Stevenson. Unpublished.

"I hope that papa is well for he has not written to me for nearly three weeks. I will have finished work on Friday the 18th and the boys are to go away on Saturday. I hope papa will come for me soon as I wish to spend Christmas at Mentoni. . . . I am wearying very much you may be sure for the time when I am to come to Mentoni." . . . 200.00

5. [Mentone, Feby., 1864.]—4 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father, after his departure from Wyatt's boarding school at Spring Grove, near London, telling of their amusements at Mentone, and including a small drawing labelled, "Danish War" and a small water color sketch labelled, "Design for Lady's Brooch." Delightfully humorous throughout.

"Mamma does not like your 'caffé au Stevenson' ni moi, ni Jessie non plus. . . . One of the donkeys ran off and played about till a man enticed it with a loaf and M received the wretched pittance of 4 pence for it. . . . If Jessie wasn't more dead than alive I have no doubt she would join me in well wishes to Edinburgh. . . . The cursed souries are as troublesome as ever and ten times more cunning."

Contains important early mention of his "cough" and evidence of his courageous attitude 250.00

6. [Torquay, March, 1865.]—Rhyming letter, 3 pp., unsigned, in Mrs. Stevenson's hand. She writes at the top of the first page: "Sent to several people. I have lost the first edition, which was the best. This one was sent to Cummy's Mother" 44 lines of verse. Endorsed in pencil: "Dictated to Mrs. Stevenson by R. L. S." Unpublished.

"Our ill luck never seems to leave us
The weather here is just as greivous
As it was in Edinburry
Which we left in such a hurry
For to try if we could find
A place more suited to Ma's mind."

50.00

A series of letters recounting Stevenson's experiences during his attempts at following his father's footsteps in the profession of lighthouse engineering. This period furnished material for his later essay, "Random Memories: The Coast of Fife."

7. Anchor House, Sunday evening [1867 or 1868.]—8 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, with amusing description of the journey and the people he met, and messages to his friends.

"I addressed to him some remarks on the subject of the weather; but he appeared completely shut up by the novelty of my views on the subject, as he said no more till the end of our journey. By

dwelling on this subject, it seems that his mind, too weak to grapple with such subjects, became entirely deranged; for he suddenly began to talk aloud to himself and to snap his fingers, and to nod his head. . . . By the by I'm becoming radical too. Nothing about anything but *subjects*."

A fine example of his typical charm and whimsical observation . . . 200.00

8. [Anstruther, July, 1868.]—7 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. In part, unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, during his month's engineering experience at Anstruther in Fifeshire, giving an account of some strolling players.

"Tell Papa that his boat-builders are the most illiterate brutes with whom I ever had any dealing. . . . Have you sent the Essays off? Do see to it? Can you find and send to me the last lines of Longfellow's Golden Legend. . . . Tonight I went with the youngest Morrison to see a strolling band of players in the town-hall. . . . We left soon, and I must say came out as sad as I have been for ever so long."

A literary craftsman's scorn of bad writing; and a most human piece of dramatic criticism. . . . 200.00

9. [Wick, Sept., 1868.]—4 pp., 8vo, signed R. L. Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father, relative to his work on the harbor at Wick and his descending for the first time in a diver's suit.

"I think what you say about the diving is nonsense. I should only try in shallow water and if any effect were produced could go out immediately: if all were right, should go in deeper, gradually. Besides if I don't get a shot at it, I lose great part of my idea of the work. . . . What is the weight of a square foot of salt water? and how many lbs. are there to a ton? I think you had better not send that certificate of extra work till the cross wall is finished. Take care how you word it. . . . Would it not interest you and be of use in some future report to have the measurements and calculated weight of any stones which have been evidently moved by the sea;" regarding the creed of a Free Church minister he says: "Ah fie! what a creed!" . . . 150.00

10. Wick [Sept., 1868.]—4 pp., 16mo, signed R. L. Stevenson.

Holograph letter to his Father, with a postscript signed with initials. Asks his father for some building directions and describes the rescue of a man who had fallen from some staging into the water. Published in part.

150.00

11. Wick [Sept. 11, 1868.]—8 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. Published.

Holograph letter to his Mother. Gives a description of Wick and records his experiences as follows:

"Certainly Wick in itself possesses no beauty; bare, grey shores, grim, grey houses; not even the gleam of red tiles; . . . In Wick I have never heard any one greet his neighbour with the usual 'Fine day' or 'Good morning' . . . the streets are full of the Highland fishers, lubberly, stupid, inconceivably lazy and heavy to move. You bruise against them, tumble them over, elbow them against the wall—all to no purpose; they will not budge." etc.

An early Portfolio paper "On the Enjoyment of Unpleasant Places," as well as the second part of the "Random Memories" essay, written by Stevenson twenty years later, refer to the same experiences as the above letter.

300.00

12. Wick Thursday, Sept., 1868.]—3 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson.

Holograph letter. Portions unpublished. A somewhat technical letter to his Father, telling of his work. 150.00

13. Wick [Sept., 1868.]—8 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. In part unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother. An extraordinary letter describing a storm at sea

". . . the thunder at the wall when it first struck, the rush along ever growing higher, the great jet of snow-white spray some forty feet above you, and the 'noise of many waters,' the roar, the hiss, the 'shrieking' among the shingle as it fell head over heels at your feet."

300.00

14. News Harbor Hotel, Saturday [Wick, Sept. 26, 1868.]—2 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson.

Holograph letter to his Mother. Unpublished. For lack of news he sends her a Latin verse with the following translation: "*traductio in linguam vulgi*—

Nothing have I for to say:

In this my story doth begin:

Nothing have I for to say:

This my story endeth in."

Refers to his work at Wick—"I hope to get pole up today. . . But 'tis the workman's pleasure, ma'am, that we have to attend on," etc. Somewhat stained.

135.00

15. Wick [Wednesday, Sept., 1868.]—8 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson to his Father and Mother. The

first two pages are written to his Father and relate to the wrecking of the sea-wall at Anstruther, giving the reason for the same:

"It was that confounded Billowness—hearting—so much sand, french chalk coagulated with water! It is the very last stuff to put for hearting at any rate; for it will crush to bits. I suppose it washed out from the open end; and the sea exploded the Inner-wall. I fancy Adamson's face! Poor, poor, bankrupt Harbour commission! I am glad the sea-wall stood, but I quake for it tonight," etc.

The last six pages are written to his mother and give one of his characteristic sketches of a visit to Ackergill Tower, undertaken on the invitation of Mrs. Wemyss, of whom he says: "She has the prettiest little children I ever saw." Somewhat stained 300.00

16. Chambers, 84 George St., June 27, [1870]. Edinburgh.—4 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. Unpublished. Holograph letter to his Mother describing a picnic, etc.

"Sabbatic peace was the order of the day: Cummy smiled and all faces relaxed in the genial sunshine of her favour. We envied not Lucullus his banquets, clearing out a gooseberry tart till it was 'pure in the last recesses of the dish' . . . I am getting on pretty well at Park's."

Begins and ends with a church-going experience which suggests the coming religious breach with his Father. 175.00

A group of three letters from Frankfort, Germany, where he spent a few weeks with Sir Walter Simpson before going on his walking trip in the Black Forest.

17. Frankfurt [July 29, 1872.]-4 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. In large part unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, telling of novel experiences with the German language and people. Mentions Sir Walter Simpson, his companion in "An Inland Voyage."

" . . . gave me the greatest compliment that I think I ever received—he took me for a Frenchman. . . . Last night I met with rather an amusing adventure. . . . The most courageous men in the world must be entomologists. I had rather be a lion-tamer. . . . Do write some more, somebody."

Very interesting early impressions of Germany. It is strange that Colvin should have felt called upon to delete from his published version of this letter all the highly significant passages showing Stevenson's life-long exaltation of France above Germany 165.00

18. Frankfort [Aug. 1, 1872.]—6 pp., unsigned. In part, unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, describing an excursion to Eckenheim. Ten-line postscript added the following day on a separate sheet with his signature, is missing.

Setting aside the Doctor, who had evidently turned the brains of the entire village, they were intelligent people . . . Of course we got upon Scotland. The hostess said:

"*Die Schottländer trinken gern schnaaps,*" which may be freely translated, "Scotchmen are horrid fond of whisky." It was impossible of course to combat such a truism.

Refers to a German translation of Burns. Casts some light on Stevenson's convictions about nationalism and patriotism. A good letter. . . . 200.00

19. Frankfurt [Aug. 11, 1872.]—4 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson; with a postscript signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father, about plans for meeting him in Baden, and about difficulties arising from the sudden illness of Sir Walter Simpson's brother.

"I can scarcely tell you what a lucky thing your draft was. . . . It is an awfully sad affair and has broken up our pleasant establishment in a sufficiently dismal manner. I hope he will pull through yet. Simpson, who believes in presentiments, seems to think he will. . . . Leipzig is the next address."

Simpson is the "Cigarette" of "An Inland Voyage," and figures elsewhere in Stevenson's works. This tour in Germany was the result of the decision reached in the preceding year, that Stevenson should give up engineering. . . . 200.00

20. Chespton Place [Oct., 1873.]—4 pp., note paper. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, signed R. L. Stevenson with a postscript signed L. S.

An interesting letter on being "ordered South" by Dr. Andrew Clark and ending

"I feel wonderfully cheery in spite of the Dr., so rejoice muchly at that" . . . 200.00

21. Monaco [Dec. 17, 1873.]—3 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother from Monaco, whither he had repaired from Mentone to meet

Sidney Colvin, who had come from England to spend the Christmas vacation with him. "Ordered South" was the fruit of the Monaco experiences here described, and others like them.

"I shall dine tomorrow I believe with the notorious Sir Charles Dilke We have just come back from dining with the Dilke's. . . . Lady Dilke is a first rate mimic. . . . I am really well pleased with my progress just now. I am less tired and dispirited than I was by a great way; and of course, Colvin's being with me is a great amusement. . . . We have the gardens at hand and can go and bake ourselves under the palms at a moment's notice."

Dilke's opposition to the monarchic form of government was in its most sensational stage at this time. Sir Sidney Colvin eventually edited Stevenson's letters, and modestly excluded this one, in which he figures so prominently. It is important as registering the beginning of this great friendship, a life-influence with Stevenson, which dates from this year

150.00

22. Hotel St. Romain, Paris [April 6, 1874.]—2 pp., signed Robert Louis Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, about his painter-cousin, R. A. M. Stevenson, and his own plans and work.

"I got a telegram the night of my arrival here, saying you disapproved of the move; well I didn't approve of it particularly myself; I only did it to be the sooner able to come home. . . . Bob seems to have improved very much in his work. . . . There will be an article of mine in Macmillan for (I think) May; it's not very well done—not nearly so well as Roads—but I believe people find it interesting."

"Roads" was Stevenson's first magazine article. "Ordered South," above referred to, appeared as he expected, and was later included in "Virginibus Puerisque." This letter is noteworthy in mentioning his two earliest contributions to the periodical press.

150.00

23. Hampstead [June, 1874.]—4 pp., signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, describing his stay with Sidney Colvin just outside of London and his enjoyment of the Sairle Club. It was here that he got the idea for part of his essay, "Notes on the Movements of Young Children."

"Hampstead is all my fancy painted it; it is so quiet, healthful and beautiful. . . . I like my club very much. . . . it is not dear, and one meets agreeable people. . . . I have stopped my tonic now for a fortnight without harm, and I can walk a great deal more. . . . There is rather a nice article of Colvin's in this Macmillan. Wicked Leslie Stephen is not going to publish me for over two months I fear."

Sir Leslie Stephen was at this time editor of *The Cornhill Magazine*. Stevenson's contribution, above referred to, appeared as he expected in the August issue,—his fourth magazine article; it was entitled, "Victor Hugo's Romances" and was reprinted in "Familiar Studies of Men and Books." He himself came to believe that it marks the beginning of his command of style.....

175.00

A group of four letters about his three-week trip to the Barbizon or Fontainebleau region in France, afterwards so much endeared to him. His object was, of course, the improvement of his health.

24. Savile Club, London [1875, March (?)]—4 pp., signed "Your affectionate Prodigal," and then again after a postscript, R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, on the eve of a brief trip to Barbizon with his artist-cousin, R. A. M. Stevenson, mentioning Andrew Lang, Leslie Stephen, and the "Daily Review."

"We're off to Barbizon—for some more health and forest and ozone. . . . I wish you hadn't sent me this Daily Review. I had to make a violent effort to throw off the bile I conceived from its perusal. I wish the filthy print were in—well, let's say the bankruptcy court. . . . O! do take some rum out to Swanston. I have become so fond of milk I drink it noon and night—although it used to put me—in such a beastly plight."

The penmanship, the wording, and the postscript's tenor all seem to show that this missive was composed while Stevenson was in a state of genial exhilaration after a convivial session at his Club. A very pleasantly amusing letter.....

125.00

25. Café du Senat, Pres de Luxembourg [Paris, March 29, 1875.]—2 pp., signed R. L. Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, telling of his arrival in Paris, criticizing his cousin R. A. M. Stevenson's painting, and mentioning Sindey Colvin's illness.

"I have been so tired with my journey that I have spent the most part of my time in Paris in a gross slumber. . . . Bob has certainly made considerable progress; the fellows round here seem to think a good deal of his work. It will always be ugly, I think; but there is something strange and original about it. . . . If you should feel inclined to send me a five pound note. . . . I have done nothing with my head except these unintelligent letters to you. . . . Letter very cheeky."

He so rigidly excluded valetudinarian references from his published works that letters about his health have a special interest and importance. This is a good example.....

150.00

26. Marlotte [April 7, 1875.]-2 pp., signed with initials.

Holograph letter to his Mother. Unpublished.

*"I have ridden over here from Barbizon to-day. . . . I am in love with the forest and the life at Barbizon" 100.00

27. Paris [April 19, 1875.]-1 page, signed R. L. Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph note to his Mother, on the eve of his return to England after his Barbizon trip.

"I cross tonight. I am now a pauper once more. I have had such a nice time and am very well, but more unintelligent than ever I was before, I think. . . . Please excuse my better writing or rather my not better writing."

This letter winds up the episode very pleasantly on a characteristic note. 100.00

28. 17 Heriot Row, Edinburgh [Aug. 12, 1876.]-3 pp., signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, about a visit to some friends.

"My visit to Jenkin's was in some sense disastrous; when they were modestly apologizing, the best I could find to say was that the effects of real water had been entirely disregarded of expense. . . . I had some capital, talks as you may imagine; capital talks So much for the family vanity."

This refers to Fleming Jenkin, Stevenson's instructor in Engineering at Edinburgh University and his close personal friend. 185.00

29. Rue Donay [Paris, Jan. 10, 1877.]-3 pp., signed Robert Louis Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, on his way back from the canoe trip described in "An Inland Voyage."

"I believe I am growing fat and rosy; certainly if warmth, calm and idleness should fatten and roseate, I am enjoying them all. The worst of it is my life is so very empty, that I have nothing to write of. . . . I dine every day in a Cr  merie with a party of Americans, one Irishman and sometimes an English lady. . . . Bob is in a great quandary about my father's picture."

Far from having "nothing to write of," he tells "rather a pitiful story" of the English lady's failure in the study of art, and then discusses with interesting detail his cousin's difficulty in family portraiture 200.00

30. Maison Lavenne. Paris [Oct. 10, 1877.]-3 pp., signed Robert Louis Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father, describing the French elections.

" . . . it's not so easy to write with a bad eye; for my eye still continues to be a little bit of a nuisance. I walk about Paris and can neither read nor write; but the bustle in the street amuses vastly. . . . The elections are coming on and Paris is full of the strangest manifestoes. . . . Above all, these troops being marched in with the flag of the republic, to intimidate republicans, seems to me a curious sign of the time."

His third trip to France this year. In this year and month his first published short-story, "A Lodging for the Night," appeared in the "The Temple Bar" magazine..... 150.00

31. [Paris, Oct. 15, 1877.]-2 pp., signed Robert Louis Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father and Mother, continuing his account of the momentous French election which defeated the monarchist reaction.

" . . . in came Mr. Dick's letter containing 25 quid (of which I gratefully hereby acknowledge receipt). . . . On Saturday, the Gaulois had an article telling the people to go from the polling booth to the barricades. . . . [A manifesto] of the President's made me so mad that I could have broken his head. . . . It was written, I firmly believe, with the intention of driving on the republicans to extremities."

Aside from the historical interest, this letter harps upon the point so prominent in his correspondence, and so influential in moulding his habits, the poverty imposed on him by an insufficient allowance from home..... 150.00

32. Savile Club [London, January, 1878.]-3 pp., signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother about the publication of his first-book, and about his winning the critical appreciation of Leslie Stephen, Heuffer, and others.

"Kegan Paul won't let me go today as I had meant. He is going to produce a book of mine, and I have been all day at work with him on details. I never had so many compliments as yesterday. . . . A story of people sitting till four in the morning after a ball over 'Will o' the Mill,' and reading it over again the first thing at breakfast. . . . Evoël trumpets."

An extraordinarily interesting letter, recording the publisher's acceptance of his first book ("An Inland Voyage"), the public's reception of his second short-story (which appeared in the "Cornhill" for this month), and the critic's first general recognition of his work.. 225.00

33. [Paris, Feb. 12, 1878.]-1 page, signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, referring to his health and his proof-reading.

"I did not tell you that in my first interview (indeed I did not know it myself) the doctor was within an ace of planking me off to the south. . . . 128 pages of my book corrected. See if it's announced won't you? Look in advertisements of Saturday and Athenæum and siclike."

Describes momentous events: the proof-reading and announcement of Stevenson's first book, "An Inland Voyage" 125.00

34. [Paris, July or August, 1878.]—2 pp., signed Robert Louis Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, about his literary work.

"I rise before six, get to work at seven and work until eleven, when I breakfast: Thence to about 3, I walk or saunter around: from 3 to 5 or 6, work again; 6, dinner; and to bed before nine. How's that for health and industry. I am getting on fast with Edinburgh. . . . I am reading up the Carnisards and shall go a walk in the scene of their wars, the Hautes Cévennes. . . . It is a good thing I can work, or I should cut my stick entirely, I believe."

Interesting detailed schedule of his working day, with references to his second book, "Edinburgh: Picturesque Notes," and the scene of his third, "Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes." 125.00

35. Cernay la Ville [France, Oct. 18, 1878.]—1 page, signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph note to his Mother, about his health and his work.

"The Edinburgh book is about through the press. I hope you will like what I say about Swanston. The Arabian Nights finish this week, I believe, and I have been written to for more short stories."

Interesting signs of his turning from essay writing to fiction. "The Edinburgh book" is his second published volume, "Edinburgh: Picturesque Notes." "The [New] Arabian Nights" came to a close in the "London Magazine" for Oct. 26, and were reprinted in book form in 1882. The "more short stories" were of course forthcoming, and include "Providence and the Guitar," "The Story of A Lie," etc. 85.00

36. Earl's Terrace, London [Oct. 30, 1878.]—2 pp., signed Robert Louis Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, full of interesting details about his strenuous work.

"I am unofficially in London only known to 3 or 4, for purposes of work, and I do not go near the Club. I am seeing Edin^r through the press and generally doing and preparing much business. Seeley wants another series from me; I am mining the Pall-Mall for a great scheme; a play is about half written, which is to be tried on Irving; two novels in the wind; and another short story running in London. . . . It was well I wrote my Idler when I did; for I am now the busiest gent in Xendom. . . . Let no one know I am here."

The various works herein referred to are: "Edinburgh: Picturesque Notes;" "Deacon Brodie;" "Treasure Island?"; "Léon Berthelini's Guitar." Sidney Colvin says of 1878: "This was to Stevenson a year of great and various productiveness".....

150.00

37. Box Hill, Dorking, Surrey [May 12, 1879.]—2 pp., signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, very early in his friendship with George Meredith.

"I am here alone with Meredith; but Mrs. M. and Mariette arrive today at ½ past one. I shall stay here till Friday. . . . The book is out. I have given away all my copies and bought £2 worth besides."

The friendship with Meredith, whom he had long admired, must have helped Stevenson greatly in maintaining the highest artistic standards. "The book" referred to is "Travels with a Donkey"....

125.00

38. Cernay la Ville, France [June, 1879.]—1 page, signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father, from his favorite haunt in the Seine et Oise district of France,—his local habitation being "Chez Léopold."

"Thanks for the money, and your letter. I am glad you like the book so well; I am once more quite the dyspeptic and must fall back upon a diet. It is annoying when you want to work. The weather still keeps wonderfully bad. . . . How I am to make up my arrears of work, I cannot think."

"The book" here referred to was "Travels with a Donkey," so the letter is a very desirable one. The reference to money matters, too, is interesting, as reminding us how long it was before Stevenson was able to support himself by his pen.....

100.00

39. Sairle Club, London [July, 1879.]—3 pp., signed Robert Louis Stevenson. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Mother, on the circulation of his books. Fine literary letter.

"Rec'd coins and clo' . . . My new book has sold 450—60 last week. The Ind. V. has only sold 485 altogether. They hope to have a 2nd edition of the donkey. Trench (Paul's pardner) told me it was the only book of theirs that was selling at all; for

the depression in the book trade is horrid. A German is going to traduce the Donkey. He offered me half the dibbs he got. . . . N. B. Robertson Smith is great fun."

Statistics about the popularity of "Stevenson's early books are doubly interesting when combined with the opening acknowledgment of his dependence upon support from home. W. Robertson Smith, the eminent exponent of liberal theology, was then undergoing trial for heresy by the Scottish Free Church. The reference in this letter is a valuable evidence of Stevenson's religious opinions, and must have been gall and wormwood to his Father. . . . 300.00

A group of Seven Letters and Items connected with his two winters at Davos, in Switzerland, where his lung-trouble was temporarily arrested.

40. On the way to Davos [Nov. 5, 1880.]—1 large page, signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his parents, describing the Alps and his trip.

"The Alps are all there; they beat everything to smash. This place and a great part of the way up yesterday was NO END. . . . It has snowed last night on both sides of the valley, and the stone hills are whiter, and white lower down, than when we went to bed. . . . We are taking charge of some extraordinary people, up to Davos."

This letter appropriately begins the Davos group by recording his first approach to this health resort. An excellent brief specimen of his familiar correspondence. . . . 100.00

41. Davos [Nov. 21, 1880.]—1 page, signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his parents about his literary work and a pitiful consumptive case. The last leaf, only, is preserved.

"I have got Lord Mahon to read, to give me patience till my box turns up, and rest me from unmitigated Pepys. . . . I am going out to find some flowers if I can, for that poor dying Miss Scott. This . . . is her nineteenth birthday. God help us! She had longed to live for it. . . . It is from Mrs. Symonds I hope to get them. It was Fanny's idea—the flowers. . . . If she lived for the day, as she so longed, it seemed intolerable it should not be recognized by others."

A most appealing letter, with incidental mention of his essay, "Samuel Pepys," and of Mrs. John Addington Symonds. Margot Asquith's suppressed comments on Mrs. Symonds' unfavorable view of the Stevensons give additional point to this letter. . . . 50.00

42. Davos [Dec. 12, 1880.]—3 pp., signed R. L. S.
In part, unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father, giving the outline of a projected Highland History, with full notes about his reading.

"Here is the scheme as well as I can foresee. I begin the book immediately after the '15, as then began the attempt to suppress the Highlands. . . .

"III. Literature here intervenes.

"(1) The Ossianic controversy.

"(2) Boswell and Johnson.

"(3) Mrs. Grant of Laggan. . . .

"My essays are going thro' the press and should be out in Jan. or Feb. . . . You have found out nothing about that minister's reports I mentioned; I hope greatly in them. . . . Many, many thanks for all your trouble. And, O! hurry up. I pine. I languish. Fanny ill tonight and gone to bed. Pen-nibs, in the box, please."

This highland History was one of the many projects left unaccomplished. One wonders how far the stern Calvinist Father's approval of the son's romances may have been responsible for this worthy attempt at orthodoxy. The "Essays" referred to were "Virginibus Puerisque".....

200.00

43. St. Germain [May 1, 1881.]—2 pp., signed R. L. S. Published.

Holograph letter to his parents, about his health and travels.

"A week in Paris reduced me to the limpness and lack of appetite peculiar to a kid-glove; and gave Fanny a jumping sore throat. It's my belief there is death in the kettle, there; a pestilence or the like. We came out here . . . find the place a bed of lilacs and nightingales (1st time I ever heard one) and also of a bird called the piasseur, cheerfulest of sylvan creatures, an ideal comic opera in itself."

Notes of a stop-over in Paris and environs on the way back to Scotland after the first winter at Davos. The "bill of health" is far from satisfactory for himself or his wife.....

175.00

44. Davos [Dec. 13, 1881.]—2 pp., signed "Robert Louis Stevenson: His autograph price 2d coloured and 1d plain." Unpublished. His Essay, with this title, "A Penny Plain and Twopence Coloured," was not published till April, 1884. The present reference shows how continuously "Skeltdom" was in his mind.

Holograph letter to his Mother, shortly after the beginning of his second winter in Davos. References to his wife and stepson.

"I would send no books at all. If I get the Hazlitt, I shall have to stick to that. Certainly there is no need for your coming at all. If Fanny gets better, all will go right. If she doesn't . . . I only got £20 for Virg. Puer. I could take Paul by the beard and knock his head against the wall."

The life of Hazlitt here referred to was another unfulfilled project. Kegan Paul's small price for "*Virginibus Puerisque*" was perhaps justified by the slow sale of the book: this first edition, issued in 1881, was remaindered in 1884 and not exhausted till 1887.

The whimsical addition to the full signature makes this one of the most desirable Stevenson autographs that can be imagined.

Included is a fine copy of Hollier's engraved portrait of Stevenson, half-length, full-face, seated at his desk, pen in hand, with facsimile of his signature. 300.00

45. Davos [March, 1882.]—1 page, signed "Robert Louis Stevenson Esquire," fantastically disarranged. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father or Mother, in highly humorous vein. The last page only has been preserved.

"Uncle John, taking notice of my not having dated mine, and all as precise, military and like himself as if nothing had happened.

. . . Not a word about my woodcuts—well . . .

"O, I dote on Cramond, I always have . . .

"Dote, dote on Cramond . . .

"O, I dote on Cramond . . .

"Always did."

It is difficult to decide whether Cramond is the nick-name of his cousin Lewis, or the name of the district near Edinburgh that was always so dear to him. His unique and absurd flourish on the subject is equally delightful in either case. 40.00

46. Davos [1881 (?).]—Two fragmentary conclusions of letters on half sheets, signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Also two letter-heads of the Printing Office which he conducted with his stepson.

(a) A rather tragic fragment of a letter to his Father or Mother—Holograph. Initialed. ". . . had not happened. May God grant all may go well. But I am sore put to it." 15.00

(b) A list of things wanted, addressed to his Father or Mother Holograph. Initialed:

- "(5) Brown's History of the Highland clans.
 "(6) Grant 'On the Gael.'
 "(7) MY WIFE.
 "(8) Misc. of Spalding Society.
 "(9) Lockhart Papers.
 "(10) MY WIFE." 12.00

(c) Letter-head:

Davos
 PRINTING OFFICE
 Managed by
 SAMUEL LLOYD OSBOUREN & CO.
 The Chalet..... 7.50

(d) Another similar letter-head, written all over, on both sides, not in Stevenson's hand, with fragmentary details of his pet skye-terrier, Walter, or Woggs. 10.00

47. [Probably 1883.]—2 half-sheets, each signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph conclusions of two letters to his Father.

"There is another encourager for you; hold on, it's only a year, or two; and you will be out of the wood and as chipper as a sprug.

"Please let us hear your views and purposes, and if possible let us have the light (too often clouded) of your countenance." 25.00

48. Hotel Petit Louvre, Marseille [France Jan., 1883.]—3 pp., signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his parents, chiefly about his health. Southern France proved to be a poor exchange for Davos.

"St. Marcel is a kind of goblin-haunted marsh, filled after dark with corpse lights; they have a fever there, the bells ring almost daily for the dead, and gruesomest of all, four or five . . . women are losing their noses from some sort of . . . leprosy. O, it's a deadhouse, a shambles, a catacomb! And yet so pretty . . . Will you please send me some more money. . . . Certainly I have no notion of trying to come back to Scotland for a round year anyway. The white cliffs of Albion shall not see me. I am sick of relapsing."

Plans were being made for escape to Nice and Hyères, where he spent what he considered some of the happiest months of his life. This letter is unusually indicative of his physical and financial difficulties 125.00

49. Hotel de l'Univers, Lyon Aug. 30, 1883.—2 pp., signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his parents, about "Treasure

Island" and the happy, healthy period in his long battle with his lungs.

"I have been working very hard indeed and have enjoyed the most splendid health: I have not been so well for ever so long, really *enjoying* health. . . . I have just sent off the title sheet of *T. I^d*, which only waits the map: *marche-t-elle?*"

"Treasure Island" (for which he received £100) was the first of his books to bring him real popularity and fame, and thereafter a more adequate return for his literary labors. . . . 165.00

Two good letters from the Bournemouth period, where for three years he tried to find health in English surroundings.

50. B. T., B. P., B., [Bonallie Towers, Branksome Park, Bournemouth] 29th Jan., 1885.—3 pp., signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his Father.

"Cheque for £140 received: many thanks. It seems we have carried Skerryvore from the very teeth of a large crowd who were waiting for the sale. . . . The name (Skerryvore) is an admirable inspiration and I think will please Aunt Alan. I fear I have no news; I am cruel busy with all sorts of affairs of every description, and two [sic] few hours in the day. I hear Metammeh is taken which is a comfort: now to have a dynamiter lynched, and all would be for the best in the best of possible worlds."

"Skerryvore" was the name given, in memory of his Uncle Alan's great lighthouse of that name, to the house and garden presented by his Father as a special gift to Stevenson's wife. Here Stevenson, though largely confined to his bed and even unable to speak, yet accomplished a great deal of very important literary work (*Admiral Guinea*, *Beau Austin*, *Prince Otto*, *Child's Garden of Verse*, *More New Arabian Nights*, *Kidnapped*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Underwoods*, etc.). The present letter closes with references to his interest in national affairs, in the Soudan and Ireland. "*More New Arabian Nights*" was designed "to make dynamite ridiculous if he could not make it horrible" . . . 150.00

51. Skerryvore, Bournemouth [Sept. 1st, 1886.]—2 pp., signed R. L. S. Unpublished.

Holograph letter to his parents about his memoir of his old friend, Professor Fleeming Jenkin, just deceased, some critical notices about his own work, and his meeting with Aubrey de Vere.

"I have been a little out of sorts, but I am charmed to say I am getting on with Jenkin. . . . I am so glad you found the notices. Did Fanny send you the *Athenæum*? It was good indeed, and by the best authority, Theodore Watts. . . . Aubrey de Vere the poet has been to see me: in a front view, he is simply my father! . . . I was quite moved to see him."

The references to Watts Dunton and de Vere and the Jenkin memoir (published in 1887), give this letter unusual association interest..... 75.00

52. [Undated.]—Five autograph initialed signatures, cut from letters.

R L S.....	1.00
Yours R. L. S.....	2.00
Yrs ever, R. L. S.....	2.00
Your afft. son R. L. S. (in pencil).....	2.50
I hope I am grateful. Ever your afft. son R. L. S. (with six fragmentary holograph lines on reverse).....	3.50

LETTERS AND ARTICLES TO OR ABOUT STEVENSON

53. From George Meredith. 5 pp., dictated to Mrs. Meredith, signed in full George Meredith. Box Hill, Surrey, Jan. 25, 1894. The last year of Stevenson's life.

"My dear Louis, I tried to write to you when your letter came. . . . Here, as all who love you, I . . . rejoice to see, your name is the name most commonly printed in the newspapers, as relating to the small English world of Letters, I mean. I don't remember, in the whole course of my literary life any name in England that has been treated so affectionately, as well as respectfully. . . . Yours ever lovingly."

A magnificent literary letter, mentioning also Sidney Colvin, W. E. Henley, Lloyd Osbourne, and several of his own works..... 150.00

54. Letter from George Meredith, wholly in his own hand. 3 pp., note paper, written at Box Hill, Dorking, introducing Sidney Lysaght.

"The bearer of this, Mr. Sidney Lysaght, is one of the now many who appreciate you and wish to know you more closely. He is a young writer of promise, with a genuine respect for those within the light ahead of him. . . . Your loving George Meredith. . . . Supposing this piece of paper to reach you—how I envy it!—Catriona is giving me great pleasure."

A finely characteristic note, with interesting literary references. That "this piece of paper" did reach Stevenson in Vailima, Samoa, we know from Stevenson's letter to William Archer, March 27, 1894 [Colvin IV, 292]: "We have just now a curious breath from Europe. A young fellow just beginning letters, and no fool, turned up here with a letter of introduction in the well-known blue ink and decorative hieroglyphs of George Meredith. His name may be known to you. It is Sidney Lysaght. He is staying with us but a day or two," etc. (See also Colvin IV, 299)..... 125.00

55. Richard Watson Gilder's account (in his autograph throughout, and signed by his initials) of the famous rebuff which Stevenson received when he interviewed a certain New York publisher, on his first arrival in America, as described in "The Amateur Emigrant." 4 pp., with numerous erasures and corrections, showing that it is the original draft.

"This is not the visit (referred to by Mr. Gosse) to the office of the old *Scribner's*, nor *The Century*,—on the upper floor of 743 Broadway. What happened there the present writer once tried to find out from Stevenson himself. He seems to have appeared at a small window in the business department and asked a clerk whether he might write for the magazine. He brought no credentials nor any MSS. . . . Doubtless The Angel Gabriel may any day suffer the same fate at any little window of any publishers, and no one to blame. . . ."

Important documentary evidence in this interesting case. Gilder establishes a good alibi for himself and the magazine of which he was editor.....

35.00

ORIGINAL MSS. OF STEVENSON'S WORKS, IN PROSE AND VERSE

56. Two alternative outlined plans for the Chapters of "Catriona," with many variations from the order and form finally adopted. Chapter III, "Pilrig," is considerably elaborated in an appended afterthought; in the second version 24 chapters are listed, with no division into two parts. Probably written in 1891 or 1892.

Highly interesting as showing Stevenson's method of planning a book.....

125.00

57. Original holograph MS. of Chapter XIX and half of Chapter XX of "The Wrecker," in all, 23 folio pages, with many corrections, all in Stevenson's hand. Written about 1891.

His stepson, Lloyd Osbourne, collaborated with Stevenson in planning and executing this book; but the older hand rewrote and revised everywhere freely, and is evidently alone responsible for these 23 pages.

The identical agreement with the published version, the inky finger-marks, and the unmistakable guides for the press, prove that these were the actual leaves used by the first printers in setting up type for the volume.

A most unusual and important, as well as substantial Stevenson MS., "The Wrecker" being one of his major works..... 300.00

58. Original holograph MS. of a short story, "Edwin: A Story of Saxon Times," written entirely in Samoan. 4 pp., folio. About 1891. The title in Samoan is "O le Tala ia Eatuine o Teira." Two of the leaves present the appearance of a corrected exercise; the other two are fair copy, with only slight emendations.

Stevenson MSS. in the Samoan language are exceedingly rare, as he learned the tongue only in the last few years of his life. He studied it with an English missionary..... 200.00

59. One folio page of original MS., with corrections, all in Stevenson's hand, headed "XXV. A Pearl Island Penrhyn." At the head of the page appears the following inscription in pencil: "Rob't Louis Stevenson MS. From the collection of Richard Harding Davis."

In Vol. XIX of the Scribner Edition, the Editorial Note explains that Stevenson himself desired the suppression of this material..... 50.00

60. Autograph Manuscript of "The Young Chevalier." Introductory Episode of the Wine Seller's Wife, with two pages of proposed chapter headings and notes. Together 18 pages, folio.

*Published in the posthumous collection. "Lay Morals and Other Papers," with an Editorial Note by Sidney Colvin, in which he states that the above fragment was written at the suggestion of Andrew Lang, and that Alan Breck and the Master of Ballantrae were to appear on the scene again. Colvin tells at

some length all that Lang and he knew of the author's plans for the story.

There are some differences between the manuscript and the printed text..... 550.00

60A. Original holograph MS. of Chapters XLV and XLVI of an unpublished manuscript, in all, 12 folio pages, with corrections. The whole is in Stevenson's hand. Chapter XLV, entitled "The Lazaretto of Today," describes with all Stevenson's vividness, life on the leper settlement of Kalaupapa. Chapter XLVI gives a detailed account of his trip by steamer and horse to the "marred and moribund" Molokai. A typical Stevenson manuscript of extraordinary interest and importance.....750.00

61. Tentative MS. translations of Martial's epigrams on Erotion and Nepos. Unpublished, inasmuch as they differ widely from the version's included in Hellman's "Hitherto Unpublished MSS.," Vol. II.

Two pages of note-paper, with a third page half-filled with operatic and musical data.

Stevenson's tenderness for the little girl-slave Erotion, who died in early childhood, appears in these lines; the Nepos piece and the other lines on a garden all turn on child-subjects also.

"Lo, in thy green enclosure here
Let not the ugly or the old appear;
. . . but with leaping tread
The schoolboy and the golden head
Of the slim filly twelve years old,—
Let these to enter and to steal be bold."

100.00

62. Original MS. draft, with many corrections, of poem beginning, "I have been young and am old." The poem was to consist of three 8-line stanzas, apparently; but there are 33 lines in this MS., owing to the number of lines cancelled and re-written. 1 p., folio.

A tribute to his wife, ending:

"The Sun and moon and morning
With glory I recall;
But the clasp of a dusky woman
Outweighed them one and all."

150.00

MISCELLANEOUS

63. Three-line quotation and reference, in Stevenson's hand throughout. Undated and unsigned.
 "In the Hebrew tongue I confess myself ignorant, but have (as God knoweth) fervent thirst to have some entrance therein" 15.00
64. A demand note filled in and signed by Stevenson. Vailima, May 19th, 1892.
 "May 19th [189] 2
 "[Mr.] H. J. Morris.
 "[Please deliver to bearer:—]
 "One dollar (\$1.00) gold.
 "[No.] 1011. "R. L. STEVENSON." 7.50
65. Pencilled sketches, presumably by Stevenson, in his copy of Murray's "The Thistle: A dispassionate Examen of the Prejudice of Englishmen in general to the Scotch Nation" (a witty and audacious pamphlet, dated 1747). A leaf design, the Scottish Lion and Stag, and the motto, "Nemo me impune," appear in the margins and on a blank leaf. 10.00
66. Stevenson's copy of "A Seasonable Warning, or the Pope and King of France unmasked, 1706." 16 pp., unbound. A strong plea in favor of the recently established union between England and Scotland.
 Probably part of his preparation for writing the history of the Scottish Highlands. 10.00
67. Stevenson's certificate of attendance at a Course of Lectures on "Medical Jurisprudence and Police" in the University of Edinburgh during the Summer Session of 1873. It is interesting to note that he was absent six times out of thirteen, and therefore (according to the printed rules included in this 4-page folder) was not entitled to any certificate at all. 10.00
68. A five-line receipt by Stevenson's cousin Bob in some children's game. About 1856 or 1857.
 "Received by me from rex Encyclopedia . . . in exchange for Thepine islands. R. Stevenson rex Noyzinton." 2.50

A seven-line note, signed A. C. ("Alison Cunningham", or "Cum-my", Stevenson's well-loved nurse, to whom he dedicated his "Child's Garden of Verses").

"My dear Mrs. Lloyd:

"Will you please accept a Scotch Scone of my baking for Tea. I don't expect to find any of you in on this fine day so shall leave them. Please to ask the servant to heat them a little in the oven before Tea. My darling Lewis and his beloved Mother."

10.00

69. Three letters to William Dean Howells, two from Stevenson's stepdaughter-in-law, the wife of Lloyd Osbourne; and one from his stepdaughter and secretary, Isobel Strong. The first two refer to some "Stevenson Papers" and to the collected edition of his works.....

35.00

70. The Stevenson Family Bible for 3 generations. Cambridge Stereotype Edition. [N. D. 1825 on binding, but Metrical Psalms at end have separate title dated 1809.] Old black morocco, small 8vo.

This Bible belonged to R. L. Stevenson's grand-mother, Margaret, and is marked by her throughout. The passages thus marked by her were later published by the Lighthouse Board for the use of the Lighthouse workers generally. Her husband bequeathed it to R. L. S.'s father, from whom the author in turn inherited it. Four pages of MS. memoranda by the grandfather, Robert Stevenson.

With the Vailima bookplate of R. L. S., signed by his stepdaughter Isobel Strong. It is most interesting to find Stevenson cherishing a volume containing the Calvinistic Catechism (bound in at the end), after he had definitely broken with the faith of his parents and grandparents.....

150.00

71. Autograph Records, R. L. S., 1893. Seven pp., folio, preceded by portrait, bound in full chocolate morocco.

Lists of letters received or sent on seven different dates, with notes on subject, occasion, or content.

"E. L. Burlingame, inclosing Family Cruise, ordering books and magazines.

"J. M. Barrie, inviting him.

"F. W. H. Myers, answering his.

"S. S. McClure, conclude *pro tem* the D. B. [David Balfour] business.

"Clement Shorter, . . . inquire as to date and terms for short story.

"Sidney Colvin inclose Isle of Voices and Waif Woman; German consul and British. . . .

"Mr. and Mrs. Poulteney Bigelow, blushinglly acknowledge taffy.

"S. S. McClure, 'My First Book.'

"Cummy, 257 Morningside Road.

"Sidney Colvin. X chapters Ebb Tide.

"Graham Balfour, prattle."

Letters to or from many other well-known figures are likewise recorded, such as Henry James, Mark Twain, W. E. Henley, A. Conan Doyle, Mrs. Sitwell, S. R. Crockett, Andrew Lang, etc.

A most unusual and interesting Stevenson item, showing the wide range of his friendships and interests 125 .00

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